

Robert Woodcock House
North side of Belfast Rd.
near Joyce Lane, Butler
Not accessible
1794

One of the earliest buildings in the area, this bears the
datestone:

RM
1794

It appears on the 1798 Federal tax as the home of Robert Woodcock. There are certain elements of Pennsylvania architecture recalled in its pent roof (now missing, but outlined in the south wall) and corner chimney. Formerly, there was an addition on the east end which housed the Davisville school until it was consolidated with the Butler school in the 1890's.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-818

MAG #0308185304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Robert Woodcock House (Conception Hall)

AND/OR COMMON

William E. Davis' Tenant House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Belfast Road near Joyce Lane

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William E. Davis

Telephone #: 472-2368

STREET & NUMBER

Belfast Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 48 (Will Book)

Folio #: 361

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

D-1-515

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Davis Tenant House is a two storey, two bay stone house facing south with a two storey, two bay frame west wing, its walls and roof coinciding with the original. Approximate measurements of the two sections are as follows:

Original stone house	18 by 22 feet
Frame west wing	18 by 18 feet

A datestone between the second storey windows in the south front is inscribed

R W
1794

A stone chimney rises from the northeast corner of the house, flush with those two exterior walls. The roof is gabled. The principal entrance, sheltered by a small one-bay-square portico with turned columns, is in the west bay of the south front; a 6/6 window with louvered blinds is in the east bay. Another door, sheltered by a smaller similar portico is centered on the east end and both bays of the north side contain doors, sheltered by a shed-roofed porch. Two 6/6 windows with louvered blinds are in the south front's second storey, but they are not aligned over openings below. One similar window is in the north side's second storey, again not aligned above either opening below. A small window in the east gable end lights the attic storey. Formerly a cellar entrance was in the east end, near the southeast corner; it has been closed with stone.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1794

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the northwest side of Belfast Road in Davisville, this interesting old house appears to recall Pennsylvania architecture more than Maryland, with its (former) pent roof and its corner chimney. The datestone indicates that it was built for Robert Woodcock in 1794. Archival research reveals that Woodcock received a patent for 89 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of Addition to Brotherhood in 1791 and that the land was improved by 1798 at the time of the Federal tax assessment.

In 1810, Woodcock left part of the land to his daughter, Deborah, who had married Samuel Davis. It was Evan Davis, their son, who established the Davis Plow factory just across the road to the south of this site, and according to the present owner, William E. Davis, several generations of the family were born in this house. At one time there was also an addition on the east end of the house which served as the Davisville school.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Patent to Addition to Brotherhood: Patent Liber IC #E folio 812,
in Hall of Records, Annapolis.

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 122 acres ±

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

DATE

September 1976

TELEPHONE

323-3798

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 continued

A one storey gabled roof is outlined in black tar on the east end and many layers of white and blue wash on the north or rear wall indicate a former one-storey addition there.

Across the south front, at the second floor line, the ends of some joists are cut flush with the wall and obvious small patches in the stonework indicate the former locations of other joists, as though for a former pent roof.

Internally, a narrow hall occupies the westerly bay, with a single large room to its east. An open stair, with an intermediate landing, rises to the second floor at the north end of the hall; its moulded rail is supported by plain square balusters and newels rising above a closed string.

A corner fireplace of average size in the northeast corner of the first storey room is of exposed stone; the firebox opening is segmentally arched and it has an iron crane.

The second floor is divided among two smaller rooms and a hall of reduced length. A closet door in the easterly room is of six fully-raised panels with integral ovolo mouldings on stiles and rails. The chimney extends diagonally across the northeast corner but no fireplace is apparent.

Generally the simple interior finishes and details throughout are of the 20th century.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 continued

The stair to the attic is enclosed and considerably steeper. From within the stairway, wide vertical beaded boards are exposed forming the enclosing partition, covered with modern finishes externally. The west gable is furred, lathed and plastered in the attic, the hand-split lathes being attached with rose-headed wrought-iron nails. A partition of rough vertical boards divides the attic into two rooms; the boards are attached to a rafter with cut nails but the bevel-edge trim around the doorway in this partition is attached to the partition boards with rose-headed wrought-iron nails. Perhaps the partition was originally in a lower storey, its materials relocated to the attic in the 19th century with the pieces of door trim remaining on their respective boards. The pit-sawn rafters are mortised, tenoned and pegged at the ridge. Attic floors are fastened with wrought-iron nails.

A cellar extends beneath the entire house; first floor joists are of log. There is no fireplace in the cellar.

The exterior walls of the west wing are covered with asbestos shingles. Window locations are regular and consistent: two 9/6 windows on the north and south sides of the first storey, two 6/6 windows on either side above, all with louvred blinds. A shed-roofed porch extends across its west end, sheltering a door near the southwest corner; its northerly bay is enclosed as a pantry. A single-flue chimney rises in the middle of this wing.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #7 continued

Internally the wing is divided into two rooms on each floor, the chimney being in the dividing partition. The stone-walled cellar extends beneath the wing and the straight-sawn first floor joists are exposed.

The wing probably dates from the 1850-1875 period.

Continuation Sheet #4

Question #9 continued

Will of Robert Woodcock (1807) Will Book 9 folio 75 in Hall of
Records, Annapolis.